

Adjust Cap on Adult Dental Services Reimbursed by Medicaid

The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, Alaska Mental Health Board, Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, and Alaska Commission on Aging, in collaboration with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and the Alaska Brain Injury Network, jointly support developing a solution that will allow for the adjustment of the current cap on adult dental services reimbursed by Medicaid and for addressing a solution to allow the cost of dentures to be spread over two fiscal years while having the work completed in one fiscal year .

- The annual cap for dental services – such as cleanings, exams, crowns, root canals and dentures – is \$1,150 per individual and has been at this level for the last three years. With the rising cost of dental care, this cap is proving inadequate. Because the cap is set in statute, the solution must be addressed by increasing the limit in statute.
- The current cap only covers the cost of one denture per fiscal year. This has caused a problem when an individual needs both an upper and lower denture.
- The goal this session is to find an existing bill or introduce a new bill that will that will create a method for adjusting the adult dental Medicaid cap on a regular basis or that will increase the cap to cover the increase the cost of living increases over a four or five-year period; and to support a bill that will allow for both upper and lower dentures to be completed in one fiscal year while spreading the cost over two fiscal years cap.
- Trust beneficiaries continue to list dental services as a priority unmet health need.

Recommendation: Support legislative solutions that will allow for both the adjustment of the current cap on adult dental services reimbursed by Medicaid and for creating a process to allow for upper and lower dentures to be completed at one time with the cost spread over two years.